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New Holocaust museum designs show ‘beacon of hope’ above \$45 million Orlando building

Lisa Maria Garza | April 13, 2022 | Orlando Sentinel



A newly revealed architectural rendering of the Museum for Hope & Humanity slated to open near downtown Orlando in 2025. (Courtesy Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida)

The Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center in Maitland unveiled architectural renderings on Wednesday of its \$45 million Museum for Hope & Humanity slated to open near downtown Orlando in 2025.

A spotlight will shine above the museum’s center that can be seen at night from Interstate 4, said Ellen Wise Lang, daughter of Tess Wise, a Holocaust survivor who launched the organization in 1986.

“I feel like the architects of the museum really followed the goal of my mother in founding the Holocaust Center,” she said. The light represents a “beacon of hope that there are actions people can take to prevent it from ever happening again anywhere to anyone.”

The 43,000-square-foot building will be constructed at 75 S. Ivanhoe Blvd, the former site of the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce. The city is leasing the property to the Holocaust Center for \$1 annually for 99 years.

“This new space will be more than just a destination; it will be a perfect fit for our community as Orlando continues to send a powerful message to the world that we will always honor history and ignite hope,” Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said in a statement.

The museum’s construction is being partially funded by \$10 million in Tourist Development Tax funds from Orange County and a \$10 million grant from the Ginsberg Family Foundation.



*A rendering shows the "window of hope" at the Holocaust Museum for Hope & Humanity in Orlando.
(Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center)*

Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings said in a statement that the funds will “ensure the Holocaust Museum for Hope & Humanity’s bright future and its global impact.”

In 2020, the center announced a partnership with USC Shoah Foundation, founded by famed director Steven Spielberg, which has a

digital collection of more than 55,000 video interviews with Holocaust survivors.

The collection will provide an immersive experience, Lang said. Visitors can ask questions directly to 3D images of survivors using artificial intelligence, with answers pulled from archived video testimonies.

“It will be a physical space inside the museum where people will be able to look and understand the human experience,” Lang said, “and it will be a physical representation of the breadth of that archive.”

Museum renderings also show a large “uplifting window of hope,” which Lang said overlooks an outdoor fountain to “honor the memories of the 6 million [Jews killed in the Holocaust] so that we never forget.”